

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 01565 261956Z

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PASS TO DEFENSE FOR SECRETARY AND UNDER SECRETARY
OF THE ARMY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MPOL, MMOL, NATO, GW

SUBJECT: TANK GUN: US/FRG CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON

REFS: A) BONN 5218 DTG 261436Z JAN 78

B) STATE 20968 DTG 260141Z JAN 78

1. STATE SECRETARY SCHNELL OF THE GERMAN DEFENSE
MINISTRY TELEPHONED THE EMBASSY ON THE AFTERNOON OF
FEBRUARY 26 TO SAY THAT MINISTER LEBER HAD AGREED TO
SCHNELL'S RECOMMENDATION THAT MR. EBERHARD, HEAD OF
THE MINISTRY'S ARMAMENTS DIVISION, FLY TO WASHINGTON
ON JANUARY 27 FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE U.S.
SIDE ON THE TANK GUN QUESTION (REF A, PARA 3).

2. EBERHARD WILL BE ACCCOMPANIED BY MR. ESCHENAUER,
HEAD OF THE ECONOMIC AFFAIRS UNIT OF THE SUB-DIVISION
OF EBERHARD'S OFFICE DEALING WITH GUNS AND ARTILLERY,
AND BY DR. SAILER, DEPUTY TO MR. ESCHENAUER. THEY ARE
SCHEUDLED TO ARRIVE AT DULLES AIRPORT ON PAN AM FLIGHT
107 FROM LONDON AT 1500 WASHINGTON TIME ON JANUARY 27.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BONN 01565 261956Z

3. SCHNELL SAID THAT THE DIRECTOR OF RHEINMETALL
(HERR HOCKEL) WILL BE UNABLE TO TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON.
HOWEVER, THE FIRM WILL SEND ITS DEPUTY DIRECTOR (DR.
FALKE) AND ONE OF HIS DEPUTIES (HERR BEER) TO
WASHINGTON ON PAN AM FLIGHT 067 FROM FRANKFURT,
ARRIVING DULLES AIRPORT AT 1600 HOURS WASHINGTON TIME
ON JANUARY 27.

4. IN THE EARLY EVENING BONN TIME, EBERHARD TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO LEAVE WASHINGTON FOR THE RETURN FLIGHT TO EUROPE AT 1400 HOURS WASHINGTON TIME ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 28.

5. EBERHARD SAID HE THEREFORE WISHED TO GO DIRECTLY FROM DULLES AIRPORT TO THE PENTAGON ON JANUARY 27 AND START THE DISCUSSIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, E.G. AT 1630 HOURS LOCAL TIME. THIS WILL MEAN THAT FALKE AND BEER OF RHEINMETALL WILL ARRIVE AT THE DISCUSSIONS A BIT LATE, BUT EBERHARD SAW NO PROBLEM WITH THIS.

6. EBERHARD SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT FALKE AND BEER WILL ALSO LEAVE WASHINGTON FOR EUROPE ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 28.

7. EBERHARD TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT HE WISHED TO MAKE THE MOST OF THE SHORT TIME AT HIS DISPOSAL IN WASHINGTON. HE AGREES WITH DR. LA BERGE'S SUGGESTION THAT THE DISCUSSIONS LAST UNTIL ABOUT 2000 HOURS ON JANUARY 27, TO BE FOLLOWED BY DINNER AND RECESS FOR THE EVENING. EBERHARD WOULD BE WILLING TO RENEW THE DISCUSSIONS EARLY THE NEXT MORNING, E.G. AT 0800 HOURS. THE DISCUSSIONS COULD THEN PROCEED UNTIL TIME FOR THE EBERHARD PARTY TO LEAVE FOR THE AIRPORT, I.E., AT LEAST

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BONN 01565 261956Z

UNTIL 1200 NOON.

8. THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HAS TOLD US THAT THE GERMAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WILL MEET BOTH THE EBERHARD PARTY AND THE RHEINMETALL PARTY ON ARRIVAL AT DULLES AIRPORT AND HANDLE ALL THEIR TRANSPORTATION REQUIREMENTS DURING THEIR STAY IN THE WASHINGTON AREA. DR. LA BERGE'S OFFICE MIGHT WISH TO CONFIRM THIS WITH THE GERMAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON.

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